

STATE OF  
COLORADO

Mulsoff - CDPHE, Lori &lt;lori.mulsoff@state.co.us&gt;

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**CDPHE Proposed New Water Standards for Surface Discharge**

1 message

**Fitzgerald, Edie** <Edie\_Fitzgerald@xtoenergy.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 8:19 AM

To: "Lori.mulsoff@state.co.us" &lt;Lori.mulsoff@state.co.us&gt;

Dear Lori

I am writing to you today to express my concern over the CDPHE's newly drafted permits for water discharge in the Trinidad area.

My husband and I both work for the oil and gas industry. We are also land owners, we have 40 acres in the Wet Canyon area. I used to enjoy coming home from work and seeing a large number of elk grazing in our meadow and drinking from the creek. We love the sound of elks bugling, we enjoyed this while relaxing on our porch each evening. Pioneer had a surface discharge point in the canyon, but in preparation for the new standards, Pioneer has removed that discharge point and now there is no surface water in the canyon. I noticed beginning last fall the elk are no longer seen or heard in our area. I miss them a great deal.

Ranchers who were leasing our canyon for grazing have gone elsewhere. That revenue helped to maintain our roads. The county maintains very little on the Wet Canyon county road only. Many land owners depend on Pioneer for snow removal and general maintenance for the majority of the roads out here. If the oil and gas industry is driven away from Las Animas county, there will be no employment opportunities for a great number of folks out here, which equates to a loss of county and state revenue. Home values have dropped tremendously in this area, as so many people have moved on to other states for employment. Without work, the homes are just not selling.

It is my view that the standards in the newly issued draft permits for Pioneer and XTO are overly excessive and unnecessary. The Division needs to show why, after 15 years, these standards are now necessary to protect water quality, especially at the cost of a reducing local water supplies. I am concerned that these new standards will force the two companies to eliminate their surface discharge activities

I would respectfully request that the WQCD reconsider the terms of the recently issued draft surface discharge permits and work with the companies to identify more site-specific permit limits that would also support a continuation of this very important program water supply program.

Thank you for your time,

Eddie Fitzgerald

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